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GENERAL

NO. 028

1. Scandinavian defense agreement tentatively reached--The Danish Foreign Minister has informed US Ambassador Marvel that Norway, Sweden, and Denmark have agreed to form a regional alliance obligating each country to declare war in case of aggression against any one of the three. Marvel was informed that Norway, with Denmark's approval, insisted on adding the "important condition" that participation of these two countries be made contingent upon the willingness of the US to furnish arms to this regional group. Marvel was also told that Sweden's obligations in such a pact would be entirely dissolved if any member joined a North Atlantic Pact.

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EUROPE

2. ITALY: Government to withhold action on security pacts--Foreign Minister Sforza has informed US Ambassador Dunn in Rome that although the Italians wish to participate in western defense arrangements and the North Atlantic Pact, the Government is not requesting such inclusion at present because certain governments reportedly oppose Italy's admission. Sforza believes that for this reason Italy should await some expression of favorable opinion from the other western powers. Dunn considers that sympathetic consideration should be given to the possibility of including Italy in the Atlantic Pact.

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(CIA Comment: It is doubtful that the Italian Government could make any military commitments at this time, regardless of the attitude of other western powers toward Italian participation, in view of the strong opposition within Italy toward such commitments.)

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